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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,304	04/05/2001	Julia A. Kornfield	41727/JWP/C766	6585
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CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP 350 WEST COLORADO BOULEVARD SUITE 500 PASADENA, CA 91105			EXAMINER SADULA, JENNIFER R	
			ART UNIT 1756	PAPER NUMBER 7

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/828,304	KORNFIELD ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jennifer R. Sadula	1756

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2001 and 18 January 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 1/18/02 has been considered by the examiner. However, the examiner wishes to note that these references merely submitted with English translations of an abstract have only been considered on the merits of that which was in English and no more. Any reference without an English language translation, yet cited herein was fully considered on the merits of a translation available to the examiner.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Beginning on page 9, the applicants define figure item 16 as being a “rubbed polymer layer”, then proceed to call it an “alignment layer”. Additionally, applicants define figure item 18 as being a “polymer”, then later an “alignment polymer” and further still a “solvated polymer”. It becomes unclear when applicants continue to rename figure descriptors, thus appropriate correction is required.

Applicant is hereby informed that the term “telechelic polymer” is interpreted as any polymer being a terminally functional linear polymer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. It is unclear how the applicants intend the phrase "sparsely cross-linked".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-19 and 22-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubota et al., U.S. Patent No., 6,128,056 ("Kubota").

Kubota teaches a polymer dispersed liquid crystal display element in which a liquid crystal is dispersed in polymer compound and a method of producing such. The polymer resin is in the form of a three dimensional network in a continuous phase of liquid crystal, commonly referred to as a PNLC- or Polymer Network Liquid Crystal. (1:9-44 and 6:6-47). The polymeric compound or liquid crystal droplets are dispersed and held in networks of matrix of three dimensional network form comprising polymer compound (8:65-9:5). Percentages of liquid crystals in the active area are taught in column 12. An electric field can be applied to the polymer liquid crystal display element by display electrodes being respectively formed on

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surfaces on the both sides of the liquid crystal composite layer facing the first and second substrates (16:58-62).

Various kinds of liquid crystals that exhibit a liquid crystal state at around ordinary room temperature are taught for use such as nematic, cholesteric and smectic and may be adopted for use singularly or in combination of two or more kinds (22:60-65 and 40:10-19). With regard to claims 26 and 34, the nematic liquid crystals may be twisted nematic (1:16-25). With regard to claim 7, it is inherent that the composite layer have a switching time of less than double the switching time of the liquid crystal molecules in the absence of the polymer as that is the main reason why someone of ordinary skill is inclined to make a PNLC from an LC material.

Furthermore, the resin materials are not limited to the materials taught as long as the resin material has light permeability and is capable of enabling the liquid crystals to be held in the polymer resin matrix after the polymer liquid crystal composite layer is formed. Preferably, UV curable resins may be used such as epoxy base resins and acrylic resins. The heat curable resins that may be used include epoxy base resins and polyester base resins (22:65-23:8). PNM 201 is taught for use with the examples along with different percentages and ratios of liquid crystal to resin. As noted in the examples, with regard to claim 8 Kubota teaches the use of both telechelic and block copolymeric materials.

Claims 1-15, 18-23, 27-33, 35-39, and 41-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajiyama et al., European Patent No. 0 501 409 ("Kajiyama").

Kajiyama teaches a liquid crystal display device having a pair of transparent electrodes and a composite film comprising a polymer matrix having a three-dimensional network structure

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(3:44-47) filled with a liquid crystalline material having high contrast and good heat resistance.

The liquid crystal material may be nematic, smectic or cholesteric (4:46-49). With regard to claim 33, the liquid crystals may be energized for alignment purposes.

The polymer matrix is made up of a cross-linked or telechelic material, such as a polyimide resin (abstract) wherein the polymer layer dictates the alignment of the molecules. The polymer molecules may be only cross-linked at the ends. Kajiyama further discloses methods of making devices comprising such a composite material. With regard to claim 7, it is inherent that the composite layer have a switching time of less than double the switching time of the liquid crystal molecules in the absence of the polymer as that is the main reason why someone of ordinary skill is inclined to make a PNLC from an LC material.

The polymer comprises less than 5% of the gel layer by mass and a weight ratio of the polymer to the liquid crystal in the coating liquid is 3:97 to 80:20 (5:56-6:1). Furthermore a weight ratio of the polyamic acid to the liquid crystal is preferably from 2:98 to 80:20 (7:49-50). With regard to claim 4, because the ratio is polymer to liquid crystal and additional components may be added the Examiner interprets this to anticipate the polymer being equal to or less than 2% of the electro-optical layer by mass.

With regard to claim 5, the polymer has a molecular weight of preferably between 100,000 and 5,000,000 (5:15). Specific examples of the polyamic acid raw materials for the polyimide are shown on page 6 to be fluorinated, however the claims are drawn toward the polyimide being a fluorinated polyimide resin.

Claims 1-25, 27-33, and 35-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toshida et al., U.S. Patent No., 5,812,227 ("Toshida").

Toshida teaches a liquid crystal display device comprising a three dimensional network structure coated with a polymer layer and a low-molecular weight mesomorphic compound impregnating the three dimensional network structure (abstract). The device comprises a pair of electrode plates each comprising a substrate and an electrode thereon and a display layer disposed between the electrode plates wherein the display layer is formed by impregnating a porous polymer material with a low molecular weight mesomorphic polymer or with a three dimensional network coated structure (3:15-31). Each of the substrates may comprise glass or plastic in the form of a plate or film (4:35-37). The electrodes formed on the substrates may be transparent (4:58-64). The porous polymer material may be fluorinated (5:23-42) (i.e. polychlorotrifluoroethylene) and a method of filling the material may include a polymerization including heat or UV rays (6:12-22). Preferably the material is photopolymerizable (19:29-41). The material may have a molecular weight above 1,000,000 (see examples, i.e. example 5).

The liquid crystals may be nematic, isotropic, chiral smectic, etc (8:4-28), however a nematic compound having a positive dielectric anisotropy is preferred (17:17-20). With regard to claim 33, the liquid crystals may be energized for alignment purposes. With regard to claim 7, it is inherent that the composite layer have a switching time of less than double the switching time of the liquid crystal molecules in the absence of the polymer as that is the main reason why someone of ordinary skill is inclined to make a PNLC from an LC material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 26 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiyama or Toshida, as applied above, in view of Kubota.

Kajiyama and Toshida both teach the polymer dispersed liquid crystalline composite layers or polymer network liquid crystalline composite layers as specified. Both references further teach that the liquid crystals selected may be nematic liquid crystals, however neither reference is specific to utilizing a twisted nematic (TN) liquid crystal in a PDLC or PNLC composite.

Kubota teaches a polymer dispersed liquid crystal display element in which a liquid crystal is dispersed in polymer compound and a method of producing such. The polymer resin is in the form of a three dimensional network in a continuous phase of liquid crystal, commonly referred to as a PNLC- or Polymer Network Liquid Crystal. (1:9-44 and 6:6-47). The polymeric compound or liquid crystal droplets are dispersed and held in networks of matrix of three dimensional network form comprising polymer compound (8:65-9:5). Various kinds of liquid crystals that exhibit a liquid crystal state at around ordinary room temperature are taught for use such as nematic, cholesteric and smectic and may be adopted for use singularly or in combination of two or more kinds (22:60-65 and 40:10-19), however the nematic liquid crystals

may be twisted nematic (1:16-25) thereby imposing a high light availability efficiency which is desirable.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make either device of Kajiyama or Toshida utilizing their own composite materials with the TN liquid crystals of Kubota as Kubota teaches them for use in the same capacity yet the TN materials provide for higher light availability efficiency.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota, as applied above, in view of Kajiyama.

Kubota teaches the polymer dispersed liquid crystalline composite layers or polymer network liquid crystalline composite layers as specified. Both references further teach that the liquid crystals selected may be nematic liquid crystals, however neither reference is specific to utilizing a twisted nematic (TN) liquid crystal in a PDLC or PNLC composite. The resin materials are not limited to the materials taught as long as the resin material has light permeability and is capable of enabling the liquid crystals to be held in the polymer resin matrix after the polymer liquid crystal composite layer is formed. Preferably, UV curable resins may be used such as epoxy base resins and acrylic resins. The heat curable resins that may be used include epoxy base resins and polyester base resins (22:65-23:8).

Kajiyama teaches a liquid crystal display device having a pair of transparent electrodes and a composite film comprising a polymer matrix having a three-dimensional network structure (3:44-47) filled with a liquid crystalline material having high contrast and good heat resistance. The liquid crystal material may be nematic, smectic or cholesteric (4:46-49). The polymer has a

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molecular weight of preferably between 100,000 and 5,000,000 (5:15). Specific examples of the polyamic acid raw materials for the polyimide are shown on page 6 to be fluorinated, however the claims are drawn toward the polyimide being a fluorinated polyimide resin.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the device of Kubota with the resin material of Kajiyama as Kubota teaches the resin to be capable of resin material has light permeability and is capable of enabling the liquid crystals to be held in the polymer resin matrix after the polymer liquid crystal composite layer is formed and Kajiyama teaches that the fluorinated polymers serve such a purpose and are UV curable or heat curable as specified by Kubota.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takatoh et al. teaches an LCD including a gel of a polymer dispersed liquid crystal material.

Kumar teaches the liquid crystal molecules in the absence of the polymer composite layer have a switching time of more than half the switching time of as that is the main reason why someone of ordinary skill is inclined to make a PNLC from an LC material.

Li et al. teaches a bistable liquid crystal display device utilizing polymeric stabilization wherein the device has low power consumption and faster switching times.

Nakao et al. teaches a polymer dispersion type liquid crystal display element comprising a PDLC composite as specified for excellent threshold characteristics and scattering.

Kuo et al teaches a low color dispersion liquid crystal display wherein the polymer network modifies the electrooptical characteristic of the LCD.

Park et al teaches a polymeric liquid crystal emulsion including a liquid crystal and a water-soluble copolymer obtained by polymerizing a hydrophobic monomer with one or more hydrophobic monomers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer R. Sadula whose telephone number is 703.305.4835. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F. Huff can be reached on 703.308.2464. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.872.9310 for regular communications and 703.872.9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.0661.



MARK F. HUFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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JRS
June 23, 2003